

MEADOW & SEEP VEGETATION COMMUNITIES



Naturally occurring meadows exist primarily in the mountains and foothills. They cover about 16,000 acres of land within San Diego County. They form in areas where there is a high level of groundwater and fine silty soils. They are different from grasslands in that the majority of grasslands that occur in San Diego County have been heavily influenced by non-native annual species. Where Native Grasslands exist, they are dominated by bunchgrasses. However perennial grasses as well as sedges and spike-sedges dominate Montane Meadows and Seeps. During spring, they may have a somewhat boggy, moist condition. They may remain green long after the herbaceous vegetation of their surroundings have dried. However, during the fall, early frosts may cause them to die back to a golden color. Montane Meadows and their adjacent grassy areas are some of the *showiest* areas of the County for *wildflowers*, providing consistent displays of gold and cream colors from the flowering of the native annuals that occur within them. There are also large meadows in some of the upper foothill valleys. Campo Valley contains an extensive meadow and McCain Valley and the area surrounding Lake Henshaw also support extensive meadow lands.

The best places to observe Meadow and Seep communities are the meadows surrounding Cuyamaca Lake and the large Laguna Meadow on Mount Laguna.



Courtesy of the County of San Diego
Department of Planning and Land Use
Multiple Species Conservation Program
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123
www.msdp-sandiego.org